423 capital expenditure on the provision of machinery, artificial
241 manures and so forth had been possible, and labour was cheap and available when required. With the small holding, these advantages can be acquired only by means of a highly-organised co-operative system and a controlled credit organisation, and there is no doubt that there has been a set-back in productiveness of large sections of the land. The large holders have been greatly handicapped in the exploitation of their land, moreover, first by government restrictions in the matter of wheat export, and second, by the great slump in wheat prices, probably also by inclement weather conditions. As a result there has been a drop of over 12 per cent in 1933 in the acreage under wheat and a corresponding rise in that under maize and barley.

241 To GET the best out of Roumanian agricultural land, im-
312 proved communications is one of the first essentials, for the removal of surplus crops, for the supply of artificial manures, particularly nitrates, and for the spread of agricultural education. The Roumanian peasant is backward in farming methods and requires help, both educational and financial, in such matters as seed selection and manuring. He uses too light a plough to get the best results from the soil and for the conservation of moisture in the soil. A system of irrigation would be of immense benefit not only in the plains but also in the valleys of the uplands. Of course, lacking the great reservoirs of water in snowfield and glacier and lake with which Switzerland and Austria are endowed, the perennial irrigation which is common in those lands cannot be so easily obtained, though much more utilisation might be made of the streams if the peasantry were more enlightened in their use. Large-scale irrigation works would necessitate the construction of reservoirs in the major river valleys to store the surplus rains of spring and early summer and the snow melt. Control of the streams is a very urgent matter, for the amount of damage they cause, in the sudden floods to which they are liable, to roads, bridges and to arable land is enormous. One of the great difficulties that the engineers have to deal with, and this may also be an important consideration in reservoir construction, is the friability of the rock material in most of the foot-hill country of the Carpathians. (This was illustrated very forcibly in a journey by car from Vatra Dornei through the Campulung district.)

Dry farming is practised to some extent, but is capable of development in the districts of semi-steppe.

Co-operation.

Although it is not by any means reduced to a science, as in Belgium and Denmark, for example, co-operation is practised by the Roumanian peasant farmer to an important extent. In Transylvania and Bessarabia, the system has for long been well established, owing to the initiative and encouragement of village priests and schoolmasters. For example, there are community herds of water buffaloes, which tend to prevent deterioration of the breed. The forest industry is in the main run by co-operative societies which control the felling, local distribution and marketing of timber.

In 1931 there were 5,200 popular co-operative banks, with over 1,150,000 members; 236 forest co-operative societies, with about 341,600 members; 1,600 consumption and supply co-operative societies, with 236,000 members; besides a number of village buying and leasing associations.

Much has been done, and efforts are continuing by propaganda and instruction, to encourage more up-to-date methods among the peasant farmers and there are a number of schools for primary instruction in agricultural method. Modern farm machinery is loaned by the Ministry of Agriculture to peasants for small fees, stud farms have been established to improve the breed of horses and cattle, and funds have been loaned to the peasant communities for the purchase of stud animals.

Industry.

From the point of view of power and raw materials for the development of industry, Roumania is also well endowed by nature. True, her supply of coal is negligible, the only deposit worth mention being that of the brown coal basin of Jiul at Lupeni in Oltenia, which is capable of producing about two million tons per annum. (The output in 1933 was in the neighbourhood of 1.4 million metric tons.) It contains much sulphur but is used to some extent in iron smelting. On the other hand, there are very rich stores of mineral oil. The oil-bearing rocks occur in abundance along the outer rim of the Carpathians in lower Miocene deposits which are

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MEDICAL CONDITIONS AT CURTEA DE ARGEŞ

CURTEA DE ARGEŞ is a small town of 6,831 inhabitants (in 1930), situated in the valley of the River Argeş, at an altitude of 1,400 feet.

A SERIES of wells supply the town with water, there being no system of pipes to supply running water. The drainage system is necessarily of a primitive type, the dry closet type being the one in use.

THE TOWN possesses two hospitals:

(1) A general hospital with pavilion for epidemic cases.

(2) Home for incurables—a branch of a nerve clinic in Bucharest.

THE GENERAL HOSPITAL is situated in the centre of the town on a slight eminence, a few yards from the main street. It consists of two wards, one for men and one for women. The cases are mixed, medical and surgical cases being nursed in the same ward. There are fifteen beds for men and fifteen for women. In addition there are two small wards for clean surgical cases, each containing two beds.

THE BEDS are of the usual hospital type, but placed close together about three feet apart. The mattresses and pillows are stuffed with straw and are very hard. The patients wear their own clothes. This being summer, less than one half of the beds were in use. The villagers refuse to come to hospital in summer, when there is work to be done in the fields, unless in cases of stern necessity. A belief in witchcraft and secret remedies is prevalent, so that progress as regards treatment is hampered. Epidemics of dysentery and typhoid are common. Tuberculosis is widespread, and goitre is found in all the villages in this valley. Cretinism in the children is untreated, and most villages contain cases. No medication of the water supply is undertaken. Pulmonary tuberculosis is treated in sanatoria, but other cases of tuberculosis are admitted here. Cancer is also common, but is not dealt with here—the cases are sent to Bucharest for radium treatment.

543 THE FAIRS at Curtea de Argeş are held twice a year, each
527 lasting about a week and ending respectively on August 15th
443 (Assumption) and October 25th (St. Demetri). The association with Christian festivals is a widespread feature (the word "fair" is derived from *feriæ*, feast), the fairs attracting the crowds which gather for the festivals. It can sometimes be shown that the time and place of meeting are older than Christianity and that the periodic pagan assemblies later received the sanction of the Church. The fair, at any rate, satisfies a deep peasant instinct for worship, the exchange of goods and social intercourse.

THE AUGUST fair at Curtea corresponds with the early harvests of fruit—especially the plum—and, formerly, with the cereal harvests (buckwheat and millets) which maize replaced. It is probably connected in origin with the Lammas fairs of the West. The first of August, in the ancient Celtic calendar, marked the beginning of autumn and was celebrated as a harvest festival. In Ireland the day is still called Lewy's Fair, and is traditionally associated with the lighting of fires, with games and the making of marriage matches. Lammas fair is the largest of the year in some Irish towns.

THE OCTOBER fair would seem to derive its importance primarily from the return of the stock from the mountain pastures, when cheese and wool and surplus animals can be exchanged. A feature of the October fair is the high proportion of sheep and goats among the stock offered for sale. In the French Alps, too, the autumn stock fairs are the most important of the year. The maize harvest has by this time been gathered even in the Carpathian valleys, where winter sets in early. But whatever the position may once have been, the fairs are now more concerned with goods than with stock.

543 CURTEA FAIR-GROUND is situated on the flood plain, on waste ground kept free of permanent habitations by the danger of spring floods. The scarp leading to the first river-terrace rises steeply behind and is planted with trees which provide
● [312] some shelter for peasants and animals. Here, too, under the scarp, is the well which supplies the needs of man and beast.
[496] The main railway—terminus of the line downstream to Pitesti—has extensive sidings on the first terrace immediately behind, while the branch (timber) line to Cumpana runs

The roof is steeper than in the plains and protrudes further over the house. The support is in the form of a collar. The rafters tend to be too widely spaced, which results in slight bending of the battens; but, while it makes for a weaker roof, this results in softer and more pleasing lines. The four corners are not sharp but tend to be rounded (fig. 62). Wooden shingles are almost exclusively used for roof covering. They are about 15 centimeters wide and may be as long as 3 meters. They overlap two to four times. Shorter shingles form 6–10 rows. The smaller shingles may have their ends in the form of swallow tails or other decorative shapes. The ridge shows a special development. On the windward side the first layer of shingles is made to protrude over the ridgepole (fig. 62). These shingles also have excised patterns and are very ornamental. The ridgepoles may extend slightly over the hip and have a small gabled roof, one shingle in height (fig. 62). This provides an opening for the smoke to escape through. Ornamental poles rise at either end of the ridgepole (fig. 61).

342 [335] [531]

Chimneys are lacking and the smoke may escape through openings at the ridge or otherwise through the roof, which then shows all shades of gray to black. In some areas of Oltenia in southwestern Rumania one finds wooden chimneys (fig. 65). These are made of wicker and daub and are covered with shingles.

[354] [184]

A special development in the foothills of the Southern Carpathian Mountains is the privy, which is in the form of an annex located at the end of the veranda (fig. 64b).

[184] [514]

In general the buildings in the mountain districts show a greater variation than those of the plains. The woodwork is superior, and shows a great deal of inventiveness. The construction, however, is irregular, sloppy and often not functional. Pillars that carry no weight may be very thick, while those that must support much weight may be much too slender (Jänecke, 1918: 35–43).

342 184 [335]

Kulas (fig. 67) are found only in the mountainous regions of Oltenia in the district of Mehedinti, Gorj and Râmnicu-Vâlcea. They were built by the boyars, the wealthy landowners. The oldest ones come from the period when the Rumanian rulers were paying tribute to the sultan. The ground plan is a square 7 by 12 meters in length. The width of the walls is 30–70 centimeters. The kula (fig. 67) may have three or four stories, each about 2.5 meters in height. Each story has one room. The ground floor is used for storage; sometimes a well is built into it, and occasionally there is a subterranean escape passage. The upper floors may also be used for storage, but are mainly living quarters. Windows are generally found only on one side; the other walls are provided with loopholes. On the top floor there is generally an open veranda (čerdak) about 3 meters wide, the roof over which is supported by pillars (fig. 67). The exposure is toward the valley and the south. On the side opposite the čerdak there is a simple wooden balcony under the eaves (fig. 67). Many kulas have a privy tower attached to them.

342 712 [184] [556] [175] [312] [514]